

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)-Read By Grade 3 Request for Application (RFA)**  
**(Updated-See last Two Pages) October 1, 2015**

**Notice:** The following guidance has been compiled by the Nevada Department of Education in reference to S.B. 391.

*Q1: What does the September 16<sup>th</sup> date in the proposed timeline refer to? Would this be the same date for 2017?*

**A:** September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 is the date when the FY16 Final Financial Report is due to NDE. Any remaining funds not used by this date will revert back the state at this time. The date for this report in 2017 has not been established.

*Q2: If their RFA is not approved for this year, should districts apply for funds in FY17? Or is FY17 just an extension of approved applications from FY16?*

**A:** There will be two separate grant application periods related to S.B. 391. Districts/charter schools have the option of applying for one, both, or neither if they choose to.

*Q3: Where can we get the copy of the PowerPoint presentation for the RFA technical assistance?*

**A:** Follow this link: [http://www.doe.nv.gov/Legislative/Read by Grade Three/](http://www.doe.nv.gov/Legislative/Read_by_Grade_Three/)  
The PowerPoint is located on the right hand side of the page under Resources.

*Q4: For clarification, only the MPO table is required for section 4 of the narrative?*

**A:** Yes, but additional information can be added (for clarity) if needed. You can find the link to the revised MPO table at the following link (it is listed on the right side of the page):  
[http://nde.doe.staging.nv.gov/Legislative/Read by Grade Three/](http://nde.doe.staging.nv.gov/Legislative/Read_by_Grade_Three/)

*Q5: We don't measure native language proficiency? Is that now required?*

**A:** Please refer to the *Revised EL Slide* that was posted 9-10-15. This link can be found at the following link (under the Resources list on the right):  
[http://nde.doe.staging.nv.gov/Legislative/Read by Grade Three/](http://nde.doe.staging.nv.gov/Legislative/Read_by_Grade_Three/)

*Q6: Since we are proposing to hire learning strategist can we presume that if we are funded in FY16 that the same base funding would be continued in FY17?*

**A:** No, each grant period is completely separate from the other.

*Q7: Are there going to be trainings to help with these requirements for the learning strategist and how will the rural counties be included in these?*

**A: Any and all trainings (including video format and the use of other technologies) will be announced at a future date.**

*Q8: If training is available for the learning strategist will you need to be a part of the grant cohort to be eligible for these trainings?*

**A: Training will be available for all learning strategists (and other district personnel as applicable) regardless of final decisions concerning grant allocations.**

*Q9: Is the plan to improve literacy supposed to be written in a narrative format as well?*

**A: No, the format of the literacy plan is at the applicants' discretion. However, please add it to your application as Appendix A.**

*Q10: Are we mailing the grant applications to Gayle Magee?*

**A: Please mail your application to Debbie Berger (see p. 1 and p. 6 of the RFA)**

*Q11: Do the assessments for the application need to be based on the list approved by the Nevada State Board of Education?*

**A: Yes**

*Q12: Can you clarify the statement about charter schools submitting grants? I am part of a system of 3 charter schools.*

**A: SB 391 continually makes reference to the “governing board” of each charter school as being the sole entity for determining the actual targeted sites for this Read by Grade 3 application. The law does not include any requirement that stipulates that every site operating under a charter school governing board must create a Plan for Improving Literacy (Phase I). For example, if one “charter school organization” operates several elementary sites, it would be under the auspices of its governing board to determine which sites would be selected for the Read by Grade 3 application.**

*Q13: Narrative Question 2 - must we show the data for the selected schools against the same data for all district schools that weren't selected for this application?*

**A: The only data that you are required to include is the data representing selected sites.**

*Q14: Is the state going to require a statewide literacy assessment?*

**A: Not at this time, but it is possible that in the future the state may require a statewide literacy assessment(s).**

*Q15: When projecting out one semester can you define the semester you are referring to?*

**A: Please disregard the term “semester” and begin implementation of the Read by Grade 3 grant on October 1, 2015.**

*Q16: Can the learning strategist be a teacher that is assigned the duty?*

**A: Yes, administrators are required to designate a teacher assigned to each LEA site.**

*Q17: Who will provide PD for the literacy specialists?*

**A: This has not been determined.**

*Q18: Do we include data for all 3 schools (even though 2 are brand new this year) or do we just include the data we have from one school?*

**A: If your first 30-day assessment data (per the requirements of S.B. 391) is available please include it.**

*Q19: Is it fair to say most of phase I is for training and setting things up and phase II is for implementation?*

**A: No. Measurable objective data will be collected and reported upon at the completion of each year.**

*Q20: How detailed does the literacy plan need to be? Can we propose a draft that will "evolve" over the course of phase I?*

**A: The literacy plan will be acceptable for Phase I (first year) as long as each of the elements (from the RFA) are addressed. The ideal would be a plan that would later (Phase II) align back to the newly revised Nevada State Literacy Plan. The Nevada State Literacy Plan may be used as a resource as you compose your Phase I “Plan to Improve K-3 Literacy.”**

*Q21: Can you go over the MPO table again? Do we include all kids in this table across our district or just students from schools who will be involved in the grant?*

**A: Please see the revised MPO table accessed through the follow link:**

**[http://nde.doe.staging.nv.gov/Legislative/Read by Grade Three/](http://nde.doe.staging.nv.gov/Legislative/Read_by_Grade_Three/)**

*Q22: Do the chosen reading assessments need to be the same across all K-3 grade levels?*

**A: No, but please refer to the List of Approved Assessments (RFA, p. 36-37) when choosing assessments for each grade level. Additionally, it is strongly suggested that assessment systems be aligned in order to best report on the literacy skills of the children at each grade level.**

*Q23: When a teacher is selected to serve as the strategist, the idea is that he/she will need to be replaced by another hire?*

**A: No. While this may be the case for some it is not specifically specified in the law this way. Some teachers may be assigned the learning strategist role while others may be hired for the job. This is ultimately a local decision.**

*Q24: Most school districts have School Board meetings once a month. On the Certification page it states "when did the School Board approve the application." Due to the short length of time with the RFA would it be allowable to list the date of the next school board meeting when the information will be submitted?*

**A: Yes**

*Q25: Do we need to have this year's Fall data in the MPO table or can it be based on last year's data?*

**A: If available, please use this year's data. If this year's data is not available please use last year's data.**

*Q26: This is a very short timeline for the complexity of this application (i.e. the Literacy Plan). Will the reviewers consider this?*

**A: Yes**

*Q27: Just to be clear, we're using last year's testing data for the MPO table so are we using the 3rd grade data for students who are now 4th graders and are not included in this grant program.*

**A: This data will be included as a snapshot of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade performance. Please access the revised MPO table through the following link:**

**[http://nde.doe.staging.nv.gov/Legislative/Read by Grade Three/](http://nde.doe.staging.nv.gov/Legislative/Read_by_Grade_Three/)**

*Q28: If you are writing for a learning strategist is it accurate that they are not required to be implementing and training in the schools until the second 1/2 of school year?*

**A: It is recommended that the learning strategist be in place as soon as possible.**

*Q29: Are we allowed to add a coversheet and table of contents to the application?*

**A: Yes**

*Q30: Is the application due 9/22 or 9/23?*

**A: 9/22**

*Q31: I'm still confused about the MPO table. Do we include all students in our district or just those from schools involved in the grant application? For the disaggregated baseline measure, are we to break out the number of "deficient" kids into the three following categories (ELL, IEP and FRL)? For example, is the "English Learners" count under "Disaggregated Baseline Measure" the TOTAL number of EL students or the number of students who are EL AND "deficient".*

**A: Please access the revised MPO table through the following link:**

**[http://nde.doe.staging.nv.gov/Legislative/Read\\_by\\_Grade\\_Three/](http://nde.doe.staging.nv.gov/Legislative/Read_by_Grade_Three/)**

*Q32: Regarding funding....with the learning strategist working collaboratively with 4th grade teachers is it allowable to include costs for the 4th grade teachers if needed (subs for collaboration, pd, etc.)?*

**A: Yes.**

*Q33: please go over the supplement and supplant components.*

**A: Please refer to the following NDE webpage:**

**<http://www.doe.nv.gov/Legislative/ReadByThree/SchoolwideSupplementNotSupplant2015/>**

*Q34: Can you clarify if Question 1 needs to have the Literacy Plan written out in the body of the Narrative and Attached as Appendix A or does this Literacy Plan attachment satisfy Question 1 and we begin the Narrative with Question 2?*

**A: The application narrative can begin with Question 2. The Literacy Plan should be attached as Appendix A.**

*Q35: Let's say that a certain district and/or charter school has decided **not to apply** for the Read by Grade 3 grant during this Phase I (2015-2016) application process. It is our understanding that they would still need to create a plan for literacy & submit it to the Nevada Department of Education in December, 2015. If this is, indeed, the case what criteria do they need to use to create their "Plan to Improve K-3 Literacy" for this initial year of Read by Grade 3?*

**A: Your perceptions are correct. Schools/districts that choose not to apply for funds this year still need to submit a "Plan to Improve K-3 Literacy". The Guidance Document that includes the criteria for writing this plan can be found on the right sidebar of the following link:**  
[http://www.doe.nv.gov/Legislative/Read by Grade Three/](http://www.doe.nv.gov/Legislative/Read_by_Grade_Three/)

*Q36: Does the learning strategist have to be a new full-time position?*

**A: No, this position may vary widely throughout the state. Some may choose to hire a full-time learning strategist for each school and some may choose to add this role to the duties assigned to a current employee.**

*Q37: Will funds carry over so that an appointed learning strategist could be hired for a longer period of time?*

**A: None of the funds for either year will carry over.**

**The following questions and answer were added on October 1, 2015:**

*Q38: I'm trying to finish up my grant and I have a question on the MPO table. I have attached it here (I'm in process of breaking out the disaggregated data). First question, it seems wrong that our baseline is our current assessment and then the projected measure will be with one from the list, is that o.k.?*

**A: Please see revised MPO table that is currently posted.**

*Q39: My other question is on the disaggregated baseline measure should I be putting the the number of students proficient in each category (English learners, FRL, IEP) or the percent who are not at grade level or just the n count?*

**A: All of your data is contingent on the specific assessments that you are using. Based on your assessment tool, determine the average of each grade level. This will determine your baseline measure. For example, if you are using MAP and you assess all of your second grade students (from selected sites) and the average score is Grade 1 – Sixth Month. This would demonstrate a huge need. We did not specify "average" because this measure varies across different**

**assessments. For your disaggregated data – determine the “average” score for these groups as well.**

*Q40: What is the new start date for programming?*

**A: October 26th**